

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 IO-13 /084 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6995
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4795

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, IS, US, XF, EEC
SUBJECT: ISRAELI REACTION TO EUROPEAN COMMUNITY STATEMENT ON THE
MIDDLE EAST

REFS: (A) STATE 143420, (B) LONDON 10804

1. THE OFFICIAL ISRAELI REACTON TO THE STATEMENT ON
THE MIDDLE EAST ISSUED ON JUNE 29 BY THEEUROPEAN
COUNCIL HAS BEEN MUTED. THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED
NOT TO ISSUE AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF REACTION AND,
ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, HAS REACHED THAT DECISION
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BECAUSE EUROPE HAS NO OPERATIVE ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST
PEACE EFFORTS. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE MFA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL AND THE BRITISH EMBASSY DCM THAT
NO COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN CALLED IN BY
THE MFA FOR AN OFFICIAL DISCUSSION, ALTHOUGH THE
STATEMENT MAY BE DISCUSSED AT A MEETING NEXT
WEEK BETWEEN COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS AND FOREIGN

MINISTER DAYAN. THEY ALSO TOLD US THAT MFA OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN SHARPLY CRITICAL OF THE STATEMENT IN THEIR PRIVATE COMMENTS.

2. MEDIA REACTION ON THE OTHER HADN HAS BEEN VERY CRITICAL. MOST EDITORIAL COMMENT PROFESSES TO SEE A U.S. ROLE. DAVAR COMMENTED ON JUNE 30 THAT THE STATEMENT "...WAS UNDOUBTEDLY COMPOSED UNDER AMERICAN INSPIRATION AND WITH PRIOR COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED STATES." SEVERAL EDITORIALS ALSO EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THE DUTCH AND THE GERMANS, WHO HAD BEEN FIRM IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO SUCH A STATEMENT, HAD GIVEN IN TO PRESSURE. THE FRENCH ARE SEEN AS THE CHIEF CULPRIT AMONG THE NINE IN PRESSING FOR THE STATEMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, A HAARETZ EDITORIAL ON JULY 1 SAID:

3. "THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS MOVE WAS INITIATED BY PARIS, WHERE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE LAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS TO TURN THE EEC INSTITUTIONS INTO A TOOL FOR PROMOTING PARIS' NATIONAL POLICY--WHICH HAS BEEN PRO-ARAB THESE THEN YEARS OR MORE. IT MUST, HOWEVER, BE GREATLY REGRETTED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS WESTERN GERMANY AND HOLLAND, WHICH UNTIL RECENTLY FELT

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IT INCUMBENT UPON THEMSELVES TO STEM THE FRENCH PUSH, HAVE NOW GIVEN UP THEIR STAND--A POSITION THEY HAD CONSIDERED NOT ONLY SENSIBLE BUT ALSO JUST, UNTIL A FEW DAYS, OR WEEKS, AGO. THE MAIN EXPLANATION FOR THIS CHANGE ON THEIR PART IS APPARENTLY TO BE FOUND IN THE INFLUENCE OF THE UNITED STATES, WHO HAVE NOW ALLIED THEMSELVES WITH THE FRENCH PRESSURE."

4. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN THIS STATEMENT AND THE CURRENT STATE OF FRENCH/ISRAELI RELATIONS. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT FRANCE WAS THE ONLY THIRD COUNTRY, OTHER THAN THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH WAS MENTIONED BY PRIME MINISTER BEGIN IN HIS SPEECH TO THE KNESSET SETTING OUT HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY. THERE WAS ALSO MENTION IN THE PRESS ABOUT THAT TIME OF A POSSIBLE VISIT BY BEGIN TO FRANCE. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, DR. ELIAHU BEN-ELISSAR, RECENTLY TRAVELLED TO PARIS TO EXPLAIN THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES. FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERLY HAS TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE

THAT BEN-ELISSAR HAD TOLD HIM HE WOULD TRY TO
PIN DOWN THE BEGIN VISIT WHILE HE WAS IN PARIS
BUT REPORTED TO HERLY ON HIS RETURN THAT HE HAD
BEEN UNABLE TO MAKE ANY PROGRESS. THE FRENCH
AMBASSADOR THEN CABLED PARIS FOR INSTRUCTIONS
REGARDING A POSSIBLE BEGIN VISIT AND WAS TOLD
IN RESPONSE THAT HE SHOULD NOT MENTION THE
SUBJECT AT THE PRESENT TIME.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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